



# REVIEWS

## BOOKS

Reviewed by Ruth Parnell

### WHAT NEXT? MOTHER SHIPTON: THE MISSING PROPHECIES A Collection of Prophecies for the Next Thousand Years

by Anthony Austin & Frances Yule

Black Rabbit Press, Findon, UK, 2003

ISBN 0-9540298-2-8 (104pp tpb)

Availability: Black Rabbit Press, tel +44

(0)1903 877937, website

<http://www.blackrabbitpress.citymax.com/>

Prophecy has been considered an inspired part in many traditional cultures and has influenced the history of the Western world, yet it holds a less than lofty place in a modern, high-tech, rationalist society—and for good reason! So little can be proved definitively and so much is open to interpretation.

In *What Next? Mother Shipton: The Missing Prophecies*, we are presented with a series of visions on what may come to pass in this third millennium—which is quite a call! The title is a bit misleading, for the prophetic verses of the famous 17th-century English seer Mother Shipton occupy only a few pages. Much of the book comprises the far-sighted visions of the modern-day Antipodean seer Ms Frances Yule, who for her own reasons declined to contribute to the collection's preface (which, along with the chapter lead-ins, is not easy to fathom).

Covered here are Yule's prophecies made in the early 1980s as well as in 1996 and 2002, many of them set to verse by Anthony Austin in the Mother Shipton style and including his commentary. Some of these earlier verses have been interpreted to relate

to the tragic events of 9-11.

Of course, in our lifetimes we'll only be able to test some of these third millennium prophecies, but the 2005 "Eye in the Sky", referred to as comet Xy'a'thurn, is one, as is that of the Black Plague which is seen to strike the world in 2007 and last for six-and-a-half years. According to the visions, a New World Church is set up by 2010, and Australia and New Zealand become world spiritual centres by 2011. Time will tell!

Anthony Austin (co-author with Brian Crowley of *The Dragon's Tail* and *Draco: The Tenth Planet*) believes that there are missing Mother Shipton prophecies which cover present and forthcoming decades, but that Frances Yule fills in many gaps and goes far beyond. Far be it from me, though, to judge these glimpses into the future.

### PIRATES & THE LOST TEMPLAR FLEET: The Secret Naval War Between the Knights Templar & the Vatican by David Hatcher Childress

Adventures Unlimited Press, USA, 2003

ISBN 1-931882-18-5 (277pp tpb)

Availability: Adventures Unlimited,

[http://www.adventuresunlimitedpress.com](http://www.adventuresunlimitedpress.com;);

NEXUS Magazine offices

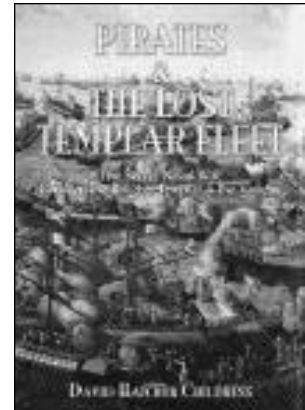
One of the mysteries surrounding the demise of the Knights Templar under the French king Philip IV in 1307 and their banning by the Pope in 1312 was what happened to its huge fleet which, in the preceding 200-odd years, was instrumental in keeping Crusaders' supply lines open between Britain, Europe and the Holy Land.

In his latest book, David Hatcher Childress considers the likely fate of the surviving knights, many of whom turned to other

supporters such as sympathetic noble houses in Portugal and in "excommunicated" Scotland, where under the patronage of the St Clairs they preyed on ships that had support links to the Vatican. They also took to the high seas and the New World nearly a century before Columbus, across sea and ocean lanes whose history of exploration and trade goes back 10,000 years. Childress provides supporting documentation and maps to prove that ocean crossings were commonplace even in ancient times.

He also explains that the familiar "Jolly Roger" skull-and-bones flags flown by pirates have esoteric significance traceable to surviving knights and their fleets. Their influence lived on with the establishment of Freemasonry and the rise of piracy and secret navies which facilitated the privateering that provided much of the financial base for settling the New World and building an independent United States.

This is a swashbuckling tale that takes us behind the lines to witness highlights of a secret history that has shaped the world.

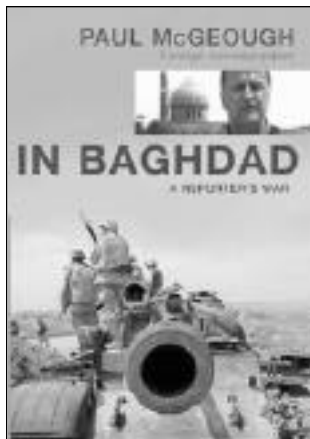


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## IN BAGHDAD: A Reporter's War by Paul McGeough

Allen & Unwin, Sydney, Australia, 2003  
ISBN 1-74114-219-9 (292pp tpb)  
Availability: Allen & Unwin, website  
<http://www.allenandunwin.com>



Journalist Paul McGeough, the New York-based writer-at-large for the *Sydney Morning Herald*, was one of a handful of non-embedded reporters and the only Australian who stayed in Baghdad for the duration of the US-led invasion of Iraq. *In Baghdad* is his account of the experience, based on his diary entries over 30-odd days from the first US attack on 20 March 2003. It's a compelling read, containing reportage of the Iraqi response to the invasion as well as his own story of how he and fellow colleagues coped with the fears and deprivations as well as harassment by the Ministry of Information and the Iraqi secret police.

McGeough gives insights into the adrenaline-charged world of a reporter working in

a war zone behind "enemy" lines—dealing with propaganda on Iraqi and US sides, visiting the hospitals and documenting the human dimension of the numerous civilian injuries and deaths, and reporting on the unfolding of the fall of Baghdad, including the effects of horrific secret weapons and rumours of Saddam's escape. From his hotels and on the ground, he describes the invasion of Baghdad and the aftermath, including the looting and guerrilla fighting. Throughout his diary entries he foreshadows the events that would happen as a result of the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime.

In the epilogue, McGeough chides American forces for looking more like "a self-interested army of occupation" than liberators out to help the people and prevent the robbery and violence that would be inflicted upon them. His scathing criticism of dismal US planning for the aftermath still resounds, as does his despair at the tragedy of the dead and wounded. Regrettably the deaths and injuries continue as we go to press in early November—and many more journalists have been killed since the 14 who died in the first month, to whom McGeough dedicates his book.

McGeough's perceptive account makes for an involving read that helps make some sense of this "history in the making".

## THE BOOK OF HIRAM

by Christopher Knight & Robert Lomas  
Century, London, UK, 2003  
ISBN 0-7126-9438-2 (482pp hc)  
Availability: Random House, website  
<http://www.randomhouse.co.uk>

In their wrap-up of 14 years of investigation into the roots and rituals of Freemasonry, Christopher Knight and

Robert Lomas make some provocative revelations. Their coverage in *The Book of Hiram* goes back to the time of the so-called "Grooved Ware People" of the British Isles who, with their knowledge of the short and long cycles of Venus and associated beliefs, can be traced back to c. 5,500 years ago.

It seems that in the first half of the third millennium BCE, these Neolithic ancestors disappeared from the British Isles and migrated as far as the Middle East, transferring their knowledge of astronomy and masonry along with their rituals. The authors have found evidence of this influx of Venus-based theology among the Sumerian, Canaanite (early Phoenician), Egyptian and Hebrew traditions, and go so far as to suggest that these Grooved Ware People seeded these later civilisations.

The authors have discovered parallels between ancient Canaanite rituals and the Third Degree of Freemasonry, and note the symbolism of an Asherah rod which, placed in the ground in Jerusalem, produces an equilateral triangle when the shadows of the solstices are plotted out. They charge King Solomon with being a despot who sought to buy "the secrets of astral kingship" from Hiram, King of Tyre, and speculate on whether Jesus planned his actions to fulfill a prophecy foretold by movements of the stars and planets, the Sun and Venus in particular.

Piecing together the lost secrets of a lost science and making a side-trip to Rosslyn Chapel, Scotland, Knight and Lomas ask whether Freemasonry's ultimate secret could be as simple as marking the cycles of Venus. They also construct a "Masonic Testament", a type of parallel behind-the-scenes biblical story. There are still more surprises in what surely can't be the last in this series.



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## **STRANGE SECRETS: Real Government Files on the Unknown**

by **Nick Redfern and Andy Roberts**  
Paraview/Pocket Books, NY, USA, 2003  
ISBN 0-7434-6976-3 (175pp pb)  
Availability: Paraview, website  
<http://www.paraviewpress.com>

According to evidence uncovered by researchers Nick Redfern and Andy Roberts, the governments of the USA, UK and the former USSR in particular have taken much more than just a passing interest in paranormal phenomena—an interest that in some cases goes back centuries. The usual official denials, the authors say in *Strange Secrets*, are covers for secret agendas to make use of knowledge gleaned from paranormal sources or are at least covers for what these governments *don't* know.

In the first part, we learn of MI5's investigations into 1940s-era "Ground Markings" (or crop circles by another name), the CIA's interest from the 1950s through early 1980s in the Ararat anomaly (the possible resting place of the biblical Noah's Ark), and FBI files on spontaneous human combustion.

The second part, "Saucer Secrets", looks at British Admiralty curiosity about the "Dartmoor Floating Light" of 1915, WWII "foo fighter" reports from various military sources, and top-secret Nazi and American research into duplication of UFO propulsion. Also covered is FBI investigation of ET contactees such as George Adamski, who was deemed to be promoting pro-Soviet ideas, and US and UK official interest in visits by so-called Men in Black.

The third part, "Mind Games", focuses on US Army research into the use of superstitions, witchcraft and magic in warfare; Soviet and US military/intelligence research

into psychic powers and mind control; and British Home Office interest in dowsing as a tool for finding missing persons.

The final part, "X-Creatures", reveals UK military files on anomalous creatures like sea serpents, the Loch Ness monster and "alien big cats", as well as FBI knowledge of the cattle mutilations as far back as 1973.

Extracts from declassified documents and eyewitness accounts are liberally sprinkled throughout. However, while government agency files exist, they don't necessarily point to any solutions to these mysteries, so the authors have to admit they leave us with more questions than answers.

## **CONNECTING THE DOTS... Making Sense of the UFO Phenomenon**

by **Paola Leopizzi Harris**  
Wild Flower Press, Columbus, USA, 2003  
ISBN 0-926524-57-7 (224pp tpb)  
Availability: Wild Flower Press, website  
<http://www.5thworld.com>

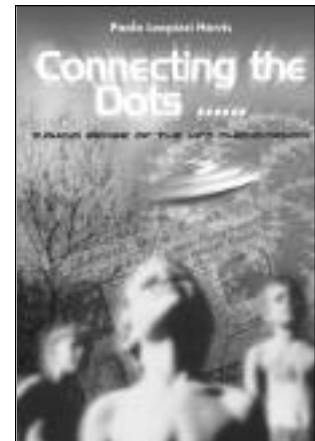
Rome-based Italian-American journalist/teacher Paola Harris has a passion for UFO research and the determination to track down key figures in ufology and parapsychology to get to the heart of the mystery. And if that means covering the gamut from the scientific to the speculative, then so be it.

The 25 interviewees who are featured in this compilation, *Connecting the Dots...*, cover aspects such as historical testimony, the call for official disclosure, insider evidence, off-planet and underground bases, ET contact scenarios and paranormal perspectives. Many of these names you'll be familiar with from the pages of NEXUS: the now-deceased Ret. Colonel Phil Corso; UFO/paranormal investigators Linda Moulton Howe and Dr Richard Boylan; dis-

closure advocates Dr Steven Greer and Monsignor Balducci; insiders Sgt Clifford Stone and Dr Michael Wolf; secret bases researcher Dr Richard Sauder; self-declared Andromedan contactee Alex Collier; and remote-viewing pioneer Ingo Swann, among other well-known names like Dr J. Allen Hynek and David Icke.

Paola has a special way of eliciting information from her interview subjects, and in many cases she even manages to have her photo taken with them for the record. More power to her! Her career in the ufology field can be traced back to when she started teaching science fiction at a Colorado high school in 1978. What she gives here are snapshots of the diverse ways of exploring and interpreting UFO, extraterrestrial and paranormal phenomena, and insights into many of the personalities involved.

Paola advocates an open-minded, well-informed approach, and her interviews and commentaries are full of fascinating snippets and anecdotes. Infectious reading.



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## **HUMAN DEVOLUTION: A Vedic Alternative to Darwin's Theory** by Michael A. Cremo

Bhaktivedanta Book Trust, USA, 2003  
ISBN 0-89213-334-1 (584pp hc)  
Availability: Torchlight Publishing,  
<http://www.torchlight.com>;  
<http://www.humandevolution.com>

Darwinian explanations for the origin and evolution of species cannot account for anomalous evidence or even lack of evidence of intermediate forms in the fossil record, says Michael Cremo in his long-awaited sequel to *Forbidden Archeology* (1993; co-written with Richard Thompson).

In the early chapters, Cremo summarises the evidence for human presence hundreds of millions of years ago, and for the existence of flowering plants and insects 600 million years ago in the Salt Range area of what is now Pakistan—several hundred million years earlier than anywhere else.

In his chapter on genes, Cremo says that modern-day science cannot explain how life came into existence and suggests there is something more than DNA alone that sparks life into existence. Cremo then gets to the crux of what *Human Devolution* is all about: an alternative theory on human origins involving the devolution of humanity from the realm of pure consciousness or spirit, according to the ancient Vedic scientific/philosophical tradition of India.

Cremo asks us to contemplate not just where we come from but what a human being is—and it certainly hasn't evolved from apes. His reply, based on the Vedic worldview, is that we are made up of three distinct substances: matter, mind and consciousness (or spirit). The true self is connected with the source of all conscious

beings; but when it relinquishes that connection to "devolve" into the world of form, the self becomes covered by the lower energies of mind and matter. Yet Cremo assures that the process of spiritual evolution will return us to the source. The rich picture he paints is of a Universe teeming with life in gross and subtle energy dimensions. He puts forward convincing evidence for the existence of spirit worlds beyond this physical reality.

If our scientific understanding is to expand in the 21st century, it will have to incorporate knowledge about subtle energies. Cremo's book will help shift the paradigm.

## **SWIRLED HARVEST: Views from the Crop Circle Frontline** by Andy Thomas

Vital Signs Publishing & S B Publications,  
East Sussex, UK, 2003

ISBN 0-85770-272-7 (175pp tpb)

Availability: Vital Signs Publishing,  
<http://www.vitalsignspublishing.co.uk>

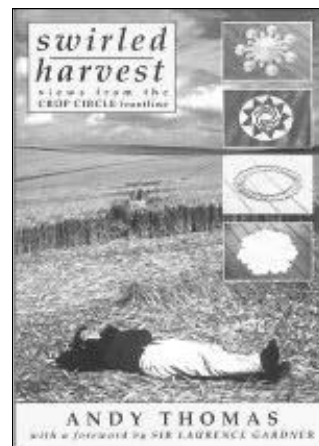
The crop circle mystery continues to confound and thrill after all these years, and in *Swirled Harvest* Andy Thomas shows that the investigation process can be filled with intrigue, exasperation and even fun.

This is a collection of selected pieces written by Andy over more than a decade and previously published in his former *Sussex Circular* newsletter and more recently on his Swirled News website. The exception is one previously unpublished article on the mysterious silica dust that is sometimes found within formations—perhaps the residue of impacts from balls of light often seen during the creation of the pictograms?

Apart from introducing the novice to the basics and landmarks in cerealogy, Andy takes us on a journey through the deep and

meaningful, the shallow and crass of the crop circle drama. But instead of focusing on the designs themselves (as he has done in previous books, especially *Vital Signs*), Andy concentrates on aspects of the cultural history: the usual hoax claims, bizarre New Age beliefs, the Oliver's Castle crop circle video controversy, scientific analyses, *X-Files* comparisons and UFO anecdotes. There's a walk-in by retired rock star Reg Presley, run-ins with foreign investigators, and even a weird media set-up involving Marcus Allen of NEXUS UK Office and an elderly red-caped eccentric playing an alien-calling xylophone. Andy then transports us across the world to tease us with the still unsolved mystery of the Marree Man, the largest ever representation of a human figure which was found etched into the South Australian desert in 1998: a military operation, or something more mysterious?

A little bit of speculation on Andy's part and a foreword by Laurence Gardner round off a book that extends the boundaries.





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## THE BURZYNSKI BREAKTHROUGH: The Most Promising Cancer Treatment by Thomas D. Elias

Lexikos, Nevada City, USA, 2001 (rev. ed.)  
ISBN 0-938530-66-6 (320pp tpb)  
Availability: Amazon.com

This revised edition of *The Burzynski Breakthrough* is dated late 2001 and has only recently come our way, but we thought it worth reviewing not only for the highly successful, unconventional anticancer treatment documented by journalist Thomas Elias but for the story told about a maverick medical researcher who has refused to bow to the medical/pharmaceutical establishment. The book was first published in 1997, but this new edition is expanded by nearly half and contains new case histories as well as statistical data on clinical trials.

Dr Burzynski, born in Poland in 1943, pursued research into identifying peptides and their role in cancer before he escaped the Communist regime in 1970 to start a new life in the USA. Securing laboratory space, he was able to continue his research and discover "antineoplastons"—chemicals refined and purified from human urine—and their ability to shrink cancers grown in the petri dish. He went on to test blood and urine samples, and found peptides in the blood and urine of healthy people but not in cancer victims. Thus was born an experimental anticancer therapy that within a few years prompted the FDA to sue him for supposed interstate shipping infringements, yet allow his antineoplastons to be used in controlled anticancer trials.

During a 1997 criminal trial, hundreds of supporters attesting to the efficacy of Dr Burzynski's antineoplastons in cancer remission turned out to lend weight to his case.

Meantime, the National Cancer Institute was filing patents that looked very similar to Dr Burzynski's existing patents. By the summer of 2001, no major peer-reviewed journal had agreed to publish his findings, despite the successes.

The goalposts have been moved often enough on Dr Burzynski, yet he manages to continue with his work on this non-toxic cancer treatment and change lives for the better. The paradigm shift is happening.

## THE GENESIS RACE: Our Extraterrestrial DNA and the True Origins of the Species by Will Hart

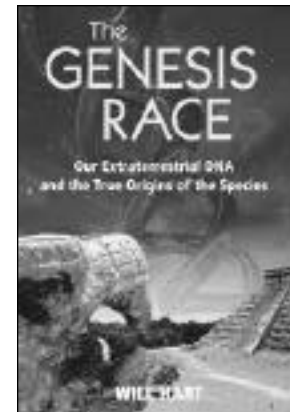
Bear & Company, USA, 2003  
ISBN 1-58322-605-2 (246pp tpb)  
Availability: Bear & Company, website  
<http://www.innertraditions.com>

In *The Genesis Race*, Will Hart looks at a body of research up to the present that suggests that human DNA has been tampered with by advanced extraterrestrial intelligences at various stages in our long history. The myths are not just stories but seem to be much closer to the truth than generally believed. Hart (a journalist whose articles on archaeological cover-ups and dissent in science we published in NEXUS 9/03 and 9/04) suggests this possibility is no longer that far-fetched—seeing that 50 years after the discovery of DNA, scientists are already genetically engineering plants and animals and trying to clone humans.

To put all this into perspective, Hart explains where Darwinian evolutionary theory falls down flat; for example, it cannot explain the sudden emergence in the Fertile Crescent of agriculture, animal husbandry, irrigation, metallurgy, writing, monumental

architecture with precise astronomical and geodetic alignments or, indeed, even how life itself originated. The rise of Sumeria from nowhere c. 5,000 BCE is Hart's starting point in his discussion of civilisations, but it is one that has many similarities with cultures that emerged elsewhere in the world not long after, e.g., in Egypt, the Indus Valley, China, Mexico and Peru.

The scope of his enquiry is multidisciplinary, covering climate science, astronomy, geoscience, archaeology, mathematics, engineering, genetics, linguistics and more—the sort of approach he believes is essential to our enquiry if we're going to uncover more secrets about humanity's past and our cosmic ancestry. Part and parcel of this is an analysis of the cycles of catastrophe that have affected the planet and civilisations in the past—cycles that we're not immune to now. In the years leading up to 2012, which he argues coincides with a new 26,000-year precessional cycle, we can expect some major cosmic influences that will challenge humanity. A thought-provoking study.



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**CENSORED 2004:  
The Top 25 Censored Stories**  
by Peter Phillips & Project Censored  
Seven Stories Press, USA, 2003  
ISBN 1-58322-605-2 (367pp tpb)  
Availability: Seven Stories Press, website  
<http://www.sevenstories.com>

If you're disturbed about the messages churned out by the corporate media and yearn for more media democracy, then *Censored 2004* is an essential read.



As well as detailing the top 25 censored stories of 2002–2003 (see our summary this issue) and updating previous lists, this compilation contains a wealth of resourced material and commentaries. It also has a healthy dose of satire thrown in by Tom Tomorrow with his terrific "This Modern World" comic strips (I love the one about a parallel America where a pooch was elected Prez).

This group's initials may be "PC", but the content of its book is far from "politically correct" from the perspective of the mainstream media—or the Bush Administration, for that matter. Obviously the Project Censored team, which includes veteran alternative media professionals as well as student journalists, has seen the light as to the questionable foreign and domestic policies of the US leadership, especially regarding events post-9/11.

Contributions include Michael Parenti's Media Moments, Jason Spencer and Christina Cutaia's Junk Food News and News Abuse, and Professor Mark Crispin Miller's mind-boggling list of what the Big Five Media Giants own. There's a collection of articles on media democracy in action, headed up by Project Censored Director Dr Peter Phillips, a biting critique of the US-led War on Iraq by Sheldon Rampton and John Stauber of PR Watch, and a shocking summary of the sections of the USA Patriot Act that set out the freedoms to which American citizens are no longer entitled.

There's so much more besides in this com-

pendium which includes Project Censored's favourite US and foreign news sources—though NEXUS still waits to be listed!

## **THE GREATEST EXPERIMENT EVER PERFORMED ON WOMEN: Exploding the Estrogen Myth**

by Barbara Seaman  
Schwartz, Melbourne, Australia, 2003 (first published by Hyperion, USA, 2003)  
ISBN 1-86395-1091 (332pp tpb)  
Availability: Schwartz Publishing website,  
<http://www.schwartzpublishing.com>

Women who are taking or reconsidering taking hormone replacement therapy or the contraceptive pill would be well advised to read Barbara Seaman's book.

A journalist and women's advocate for over 40 years as well as co-founder of the National Women's Health Network in the USA, Seaman has been speaking out against the widespread prescribing of synthetic oestrogen drugs since the 1960s.

Her perspective, placed within the context of the history of research into hormones, gives her every right, she asserts, to regard this as "the greatest experiment ever performed on women"—a description that she uses for the title of her book. This is because women have been prescribed synthetic hormonal drugs that cause more problems than they correct—drugs that were known to cause major side-effects including cancers even back in the 1930s when the initial experiments were conducted.

Seaman takes on the pharmaceutical companies, the health authorities including the FDA, and ill-informed medical practitioners for their complicity in using women as guinea pigs in one huge experiment that earns big profits at the expense of women's health and well-being. While she acknowledges that some women do benefit from taking synthetic hormones, she restates even *their* concerns that it's not advisable to be on these drugs for years on end.

Seaman debunks the myths that drug companies and some doctors want women to believe about synthetic oestrogens and gives the facts about side-effects such as heart disease, cancers and intergenerational genetic damage. She also addresses the political fallout from the announcement in 2002 of the failure of a major HRT trial.

Looking at the broader picture, Seaman rails against another scourge of our times: the pollution of waterways, groundwater and reused wastewater by oestrogen drugs and oestrogen mimics which are causing abnormal sex changes in animals and humans.

Seaman's well-researched book, with its comprehensive appendices and references, is a godsend for women who want to be better informed about their health choices.



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## **SYNTHESIS IN HEALING:**

### **Subtle Energies and Natural Therapies for Optimal Health**

by Judy Jacka

Hampton Roads Publishing, USA, 2003  
ISBN 1-57174-298-0 (320pp tpb)  
Availability: Hampton Roads website,  
<http://www.hrpub.com>

Australian natural therapist Judy Jacka (*The Vivaxis Connection: Healing Through Earth Energies*; see NEXUS 8/01) has been in clinical practice for 30 years. But only in the last decade has she been integrating subtle healing techniques with her natural therapy treatments, so as to address both the inner and outer causes of health and disease. From experience, she's found that this combined approach shortens the treatment time normally required and provides a more lasting recovery.

Jacka's long-term interest in esoteric psychology and healing has been informed and inspired by the teachings of Theosophy, anthroposophical medicine and especially Alice Bailey, whose *Esoteric Healing* treatise remains a seminal reference on the chakras and their role in inner emotional and outer physical health.



In 1998, Jacka began combining these Bailey principles with her naturopathic practises so that now, at each session, most of her clients receive an energy-balancing based on this approach. The idea is to invoke the client's own healing essence or soul to flow through all levels of their energy field and then into and throughout the physical body, re-establishing harmony.

In *Synthesis in Healing*, Jacka describes how these energy connections can be accessed through visualisation using healing energy triangles; e.g., a healing practice for the solar plexus chakra and digestive system involves visualising energy-balancing in the liver triangle (solar plexus/liver/liver minor chakra points), the stomach triangle (solar plexus/stomach/stomach minor), and the stomach, liver and pancreas triangle.

As with Bailey, Jacka doesn't ignore biochemistry in the healing equation, so she analyses physical conditions such as toxin

overload that can be alleviated with mineral, vitamin, herbal or homoeopathic supplementation combined with treatments involving meditation and/or bodywork.

Jacka's book is as much a practical guide for healthcare professionals who want to improve the quality of their treatments as it is for laypersons who want to take charge of their own health. This synthesis of physical and subtle energy approaches shows the way forward for both mainstream medicine and alternative healing in the 21st century. Profound health benefits are at hand for those who can tune in to subtle energies.

## **HIDDEN MEANINGS: A Study of the Founding Symbols of Civilization**

by Laird Scranton

Laird Scranton, Albany, NY, USA, 2002  
ISBN 0-89213-334-1 (239pp hc)  
Availability: Laird Scranton, email  
[HiddenMeanings9@aol.com](mailto:HiddenMeanings9@aol.com)

This intriguing volume is the work of a computer software analyst with a drive to get to the truth of ancient mysteries. In the early part of his studies in the last decade, Laird Scranton came across references to the Dogon tribe of Mali in Robert Temple's *The Sirius Mystery* and Marcel Griaule's *Conversations with Ogotemmel*, the result of a 1930s–1950s anthropological study into the Dogons' religion, astronomy, mythology and mindset. His curiosity was piqued, and soon he was exploring the intricacies of Dogon creation myths, symbols and linguistic expressions and comparing them with those of ancient Egyptian and Sumerian civilisations of the same era.

With there being so many similarities with these early cultures, Scranton reasoned there had to be an original cultural influence or progenitor in common. But because evidence for any earlier great civilisation was scant, he couldn't help but conclude that what the ancients were alluding to in their myths was true: they had indeed received knowledge and wisdom from an intelligent extraterrestrial source with advanced scientific and technical know-how.

Scranton has deciphered the Dogon creation myth as a code of scientific information describing the creation of matter and the universe, superstring theory and atomic structure, genetics and sexual reproduction, as well as the unusual configuration of the Sirius star system which was only confirmed by astronomers in recent times.

He says the Dogon symbols were codes that could be read on several levels and had counterparts in Egyptian hieroglyphs and mythology and even in later Judaic symbolism. He asserts there is much more yet to be learned by studying these "founding symbols of civilisation", and I'd have to agree.

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## CD-ROM

Reviewed by Duncan Roads

### THE URANTIA BOOK CD-ROM

Produced by the Urantia Brotherhood Association  
ISBN: 0-911560-63-7 (PC/Windows only)  
Availability: Urantia Foundation, 533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, IL 60614 USA, website <http://www.urantia.org>

**H**ow do you review something like *The Urantia Book*? This is what the website says: "*The Urantia Book*, first published by the Urantia Foundation in 1955, was authored by celestial beings as a special revelation to our planet, Urantia.

"The book's message is that all human beings are one family, the sons and daughters of one God, the Universal Father. It instructs on the genesis, history and destiny of mankind and on our relationship with God. It also presents a unique and compelling portrayal of the life and teachings of Jesus, opening new vistas of time and eternity and revealing new concepts of Man's ever-ascending adventure of finding the Universal Father in our friendly and carefully administered Universe.

"*The Urantia Book* does not advocate a new organized religion. Its viewpoint builds upon the religious heritages of the past and present, encouraging a personal, living religion based on faith and service to one's fellows."

My only complaint about the actual CD is that it is not multi-platform, meaning that only PC/Windows systems can access it.

## CALENDAR

### THE 2004 BICYCLE CARTOON CALENDAR

by Phil Somerville  
Availability: Phil Somerville, 3 Fairview Road, Lawson, NSW 2783, Australia, tel +61 (0)2 4759 2078, email [pipsomervill@hermes.net.au](mailto:pipsomervill@hermes.net.au)  
Price: A\$20.00 inc. GST & postage within Australia (cheques, MOs only)

**R**egular NEXUS cartoonist Phil Somerville has self-published *The 2004 Bicycle Cartoon Calendar*. Though the overall theme is bicycles, the cartoons humorously address a variety of accessible themes including urban development, ecology, coffee trendies, corporate logos, traffic and global conspiracies. The calendar is

handsomely printed on heavy A3 artstock paper in endangered black and white (one month in colour), with a well-designed layout that allows plenty of space for your daily jottings. Also noted are major holidays (with an emphasis on Australia), historical and political events and seasonal cycles, with some quirky asides thrown in to amuse.

## VIDEOS

### SURPRISING DISCOVERIES 6: IN A COFFIN IN EGYPT

Produced by Jonathan Gray, SA, Australia (60mins, PAL/NTSC)  
Availability: Jonathan Gray, PO Box 3370, Rundle Mall, SA 5000, Australia, website <http://www.surprisingdiscoveries.com>

**Y**ears ago, a reader sent me one of Jonathan Gray's earlier videos in this series. It intrigued me enough to keep watching out for new ones. For those readers not familiar with Gray, I'd say you could categorise his work as "Christian-based" archaeology. He and his colleagues are the hands-on, tunnel-crawling variety of researchers, combining their explorations with voluminous references to ancient religious and historical texts.

This video documentary covers two areas of research. The first part is devoted to the idea that the Pharaoh Imhotep was the biblical Joseph, and the remainder looks at some lesser-known biblical prophecies, many of which are still unfulfilled.

### INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC & METAPHYSICAL SYMPOSIUM (2003) VIDEO COLLECTION

Produced by Earthlink Publishing, Australia, 2003  
Availability: *Australasian UFOlogist*, PO Box 738, Beaudesert, Qld 4285, Australia, tel +61 (0)7 5544 6888  
Note: Videos vary in duration from 40 to 70 minutes, and are in PAL/VHS.

**T**he videos of this Symposium, held in Brisbane in July 2003, are now available and they are well produced, too. Speakers include: Dr Roger Leir (medical specialist showing videos of the removal of alleged alien implants from people); Dr Viera Scheibner (anti-vaccination campaigner); Travis Walton (famed abductee); Jerry E. Smith (HAARP researcher); Dr Richard Boylan; Anthony Hansen (Linear Motor Accelerator and heat energy extraction); Bill Chalker; Victor Viggiani; Jennifer Lawson; Richard Tracey; and your NEXUS editor.





# REVIEWS

## MUSIC

Reviewed by Richard Giles

### SEED

by Afrocelts

Real World Records, UK, 2003 (66mins)  
Distributors: **Australia**—Virgin Records, tel (07) 3252 7744; **UK**—Real World Records, tel 0208 964 6000; **USA**—Real World Records, tel (414) 961 8350, <http://www.realworldrecords.com>

These musical guys have been around for a decade, combining the frantic sounds of racy Celtic with the thumping beat of West African and all sounds in between. Much of their earlier releases were very electronic, whereas *Seed* is more of a return to their acoustic roots. Some wonderful tracks include "Seed", "Rise" and "Ayub's Song". This album takes them back to their traditional Afro-Celtic sounds and is a welcome addition to their collection. It's very bouncy and danceable music with that haunting Celtic flavour from a band of sizeable reputation. Excellent.

### SUFI

by various artists

ARC Music Prodn, UK, 2003 (62mins)  
Distributor: **UK**—ARC, tel +44 (0)1342 328567, <http://www.arcmusic.co.uk>

The Qawwali style of singing has been popularised in the West by the now late great Pakistani performer Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan (see NEXUS 2/28, 9/02), whose religious music is featured on this collection. Islamic devotional singing has a much more powerful and energetic presence than does much Western religious music. On this album are presentations of Whirling Dervish music from the Turkish tradition, mystic music in the style of the Persian poet Rumi, and devotional music of the Sham Chaurasi Punjabi tradition. An exciting collection highlighting gems of the Sufi heritage.

### THE OLIVER MTUKUDZI COLLECTION: THE TUKU YEARS

by Oliver Mtukudzi

Putumayo, USA, 2003 (60mins)  
Distributors: **Aust**—MRA, tel (07) 3849 6020; **UK**—Pinnacle Imports, tel 01689 870622; **USA**—Putumayo, tel 1888 7888 8629, <http://www.putumayo.com>

Oliver Mtukudzi is considered one of the greats of African music. In his native Zimbabwe he is recognised for his exceptional stage presence and his lyrics that focus on everyday social and political issues. His previous album, *Vhunze Moto* (NEXUS 9/05), reached No. 5 on the Billboard world music chart. He puts all his

strength and soul into his work, and this shines through in the collected works on this CD. His great storytelling ability and uplifting lyrics make him a performer to be heard and noticed. An inspirational collection.

### LIVE AT ANGEL PLACE

by TaikOz

New World Music & Media, Australia, 2003 (79mins; also on DVD and video)  
Distributors: **Australia/UK/USA**—New World Music, website <http://www.newworldmusic.com.au>

Australia's TaikOz has become one of the most exciting musical groups of its kind, with the largest drums and the most dynamic drummers in the world. The group was established in 1997 by percussionist Ian Cleworth and shakuhachi grandmaster Riley Lee. A concert by TaikOz literally lifts you off your feet with the awesome power of traditional Japanese drums and the slighter ethereal tones of the shakuhachi (see 9/05). Lee and Cleworth synthesise East and West in a magnificent experience.

### ARCHIPELAGO

by Dian Booth & Carolyn Sykes

Promote Media Group, 2003 (73mins)  
Distributor: **Australia**—Sound Healing, tel +61 (0)8 8952 2259, website <http://www.soundhealing.com.au>

Two Australian women, Dian Booth and Carolyn Sykes, join forces for this CD, creating music for the healing of hurts and the letting go of suffering. Dian (on violin) and Carolyn (on harp) performed and recorded this in a state of deep meditation in the "Integratron", a wooden domed building in Joshua Tree, California, which was designed and built along Sacred Geometry lines. They are both classically trained, and Dian dedicates herself full time to healing and teaching through music. *Archipelago* is a thoroughly stunning CD that makes the soul shiver with release through peace.

